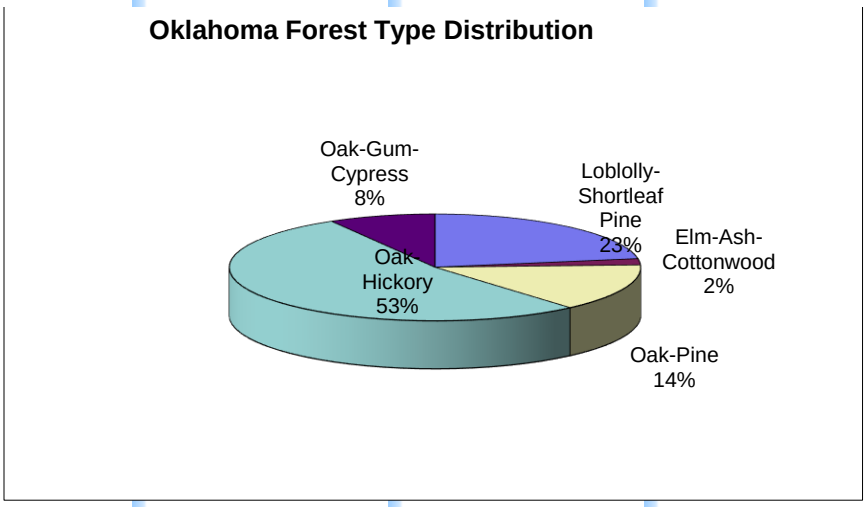
Oklahoma

Forest Health Highlights

2013

The Resource

Oklahoma's forests cover 10 million acres, about 20% of the state's land area. Some 6.9 million acres of the states forested land is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 397,000 acres are in national forest. Oklahoma's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat throughout the state. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress.



Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Forestry

Services. The FHM program in Oklahoma includes regular aerial and ground surveys to detect forest damage.

Special Issues

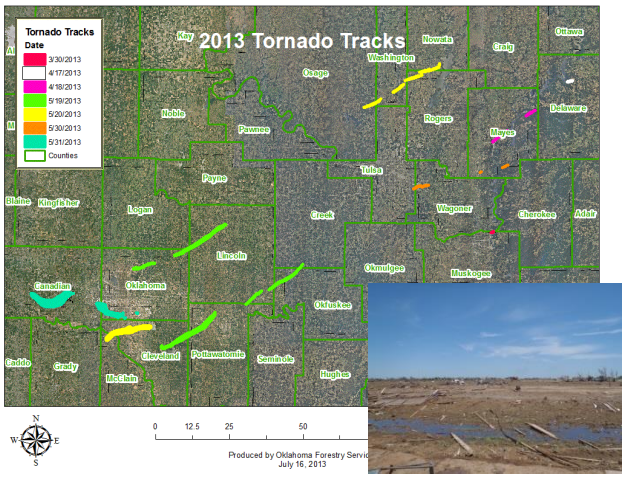
Key issues which State and federal programs are addressing cooperatively include:

- Sustainable management of private forest lands
- Protection and development of urban and community forest resources
- Increasing participation by underserved citizens in forestry programs
- Update of Oklahoma's Gypsy moth action plan
- "Don't Move Firewood" advertisement campaign
- Utilizing the US Forest Service Forest Health Disturbance Mapper Program

Forest Influences

Major insect and disease outbreaks have been infrequent within the forested areas of eastern Oklahoma.

Tornados': were the major forest damage events in Oklahoma for 2013. Twenty-four confirmed tornados' afflicted twelve Counties in the state. The paths of these tornados encompassed over 67 thousand acres or 106 square miles. This area was 24 percent forested or 15 thousand acres. El Reno, Shawnee, Broken Arrow and Moore experienced the brunt of these devastating storms by losing numerous lives, homes and businesses. These storms affected portions of the state dominated by hardwoods with the biggest impact occurring within urban forests.



Southern pine beetle Aerial Detection:
The survey was approximately 800,000 acres of pine located in three southeastern counties. Sixty-two dead pine spots were located in survey area. The dead pine spots were determined to be from drought conditions, previous fire incidents, and ips engraver beetle activity.
In addition, U.S. Forest Service had one positive Southern pine beetle sample in their fall survey.

Gypsy moth:
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) had two positive

samples collected in this year's survey. Asian Gypsy moth was one of the samples collected in Southeast Oklahoma during the survey period.

Tree mortality from prolonged drought:
This continues to be a major influence affecting Oklahoma's forest health. We have seen increase in mortality among community forest trees. We are collaborating with Texas on an assessment of declining forest health in both states.

Non-Native insects of concern
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Thousand Canker Disease (Walnut twig Beetle)
- Gypsy Moth
- Asian Long-Horn Beetle
- Asian Gypsy Moth
- Mexican soapberry borer

Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program
This year four contracts completed the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program. The four contracts comprised of 177 acres in Southeast Oklahoma. There are five active contracts still active with treating 715 additional acres. A total of $36,800 of grant funds have been paid or obligated for this year's program.

Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Cost-Share Program

Based upon our review of cost-share rates paid to landowners participating in the Southern Pine Beetle prevention program, amended our program and use the following rates for new applications as of October 1, 2013:

- First Commercial Thinning (CTH) – Flat rate of $50 per acre (current rate is $40)
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) – 50% of actual cost up to $75 per acre (current rate is up to $60)
- Consulting fees for planning/harvest assistance – 50% of actual cost up to $10 per acre (no change)

The current SPB cost-share balance is $17,157

Don't Move Firewood Advertising Campaign:
We have spent 12,500 on Educational Material and radio spots. I know that this past the time-line you are looking for accomplishments, but we just received bids for advertisements of "Don't move Firewood" in Movie theaters. They should be running in a couple of weeks.

Oklahoma Forest Health Website

This website has generated over 50 requests for assistance regarding forest health issues this year, and 175 requests since 2011. These request range from single sick tree issues to large acreage of declining trees.

Forest Stewardship Program

We had a bumper year in writing or revising 220 Forest Stewardship plans. All plans contain a Forest Health section, advising the landowner of active or potential forest health issues.

Oklahoma Pest Action Council

The Council is comprised of plant health specialist from Universities, Federal and State partners. It was primarily formed to produce a collaborative Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan for Oklahoma.

Oklahoma's Forest Statistics

- Of the 50 states, Oklahoma ranks 20th in size, with an area of 43,954,560 acres, over 800,000 acres of which are covered by water and approximately 10,000,000 acres are covered by forests.

Eastern Oklahoma, Area of Timberland (productive forest land) by Ownership Group